


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

Y-Z



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Stories; Moscow, Foreign Languages Publishing House,
1954; Illustrated by G. Petrov; Trans. by O. Gorchakov; 260p.

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The author outlines his life as an explorer, geologist and palaeontologist, and how during a severe illness he became a writer. His first stories appeared in 1944, and were based on his explorations.

21. describes the discovery and recapture of scenes of the far-distant past recorded by light on cave walls. The idea is quite similar to John Taine's "Before the Dawn"; Ganpat's "The Walls Have Eyes".

32. describes the discovery of an ancient observatory and a deposit of uranium ore and cornelian stones, and the healthful effect they produce on humans.

47. describes the collision of a ship with an ancient hulk and the recovery of the captain's diary by divers with a bottle of deep-sea liquid which has marvelous curative properties; and a chance meeting of a female descendant of the old captain.

5. describes the discovery of hidden caves on the walls of which are cave-age drawings of African animals, in the cold wastes of Siberia.

6. describes how a scientist was deeply impressed by some paintings, and sought out the country which they portrayed. This led to a serious illness, which he later found was due to a lake of mercury.

7. describes how a geological expedition finds in the desert country some slugs, or huge caterpillar-like beings which have the ability to kill humans by some unknown means.

8. describes how a scientist, on the point of abandoning his efforts to climb a mountain and analyse its composition, is told of a sword being placed on its summit by an ancient hero; after terrible difficulties he succeeds, finds the sword, and earns the same title.

9. is the longest story, and tells how evidence is found that stellar travellers were on earth 70,000,000 years ago and shot holes in the bones of huge, brainless animals of the time.

Veterian, Dixie

Exploring Psychic Reality: Discovering Your Extrasensory Gifts; New York, Crown Publishers, Inc. (Feb., 1976) 144p.

This short book is a practical manual for the use of serious investigators of their personal psychic faculties and is also a record of personal experiences of the author, who has presented radio and television shows for the public.

An introduction by Dr. Charles W. Wilson authenticates the author's psychic abilities, and he is mentioned in the text as the promoter of new psychological practices.

Despite the interpretations attributed to auras, dreams, and other psychic abilities, and the symbolism which detracts from literal acceptance of occurrences, I am inclined to accept the author's dogmatic statements as true to the experiences she has detailed. She uses humor, and is not afraid to expose herself to ridicule.

This is an explicit and courageous exposition.

York, Alix

The Love Pirate (Midwood #455); New York, Tower Publications, Inc. (1965, York) 156p.

Barbara Young is a newspaper society column reporter, determined to marry a wealthy man. She has only her body to offer, but considers it adequate.

A swinging society girl offers her competition for the attentions of the wealthy playboys available, but she beats this girl by playing the love game more expertly.

She ends by accepting the editor of her paper after he has thrown out two playboys who battle in her livingroom, realizing that she can depend only on him.

This is pastime reading only, and has nothing of value.

Young, Gordon

Crooked Shadows; Garden City, New York, Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., 1924; Illustrated; (1924, Doubleday, Page) 120p.

In early years of California, the narrator, a gunman, is hired by a former courtesan to protect her and her daughter from her half-brother, who is intent on kidnaping the child and ransom. Not in love with her, but sympathizing and respecting her, Don Everhard protects her right through until the daughter marries.

The story is told with economy of words, has a murder mystery and the hidden reality of the daughter's parentage unravelled and sufficient incidents to interest the reader, but is the kind of hackneyed melodramatic material that offers nothing original.

Coalition for Reproductive Choice,
Box 51, Station "L",
Winnipeg, Man.
R3H 0Z4.

Dear Choice Supporter:

You are invited to a Choice Celebration. We will celebrate the first anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision recognizing a woman's right to reproductive freedom. We will honour Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who fought with us to win this right.

A Choice Celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, at the International Inn. A presentation to Dr. Morgentaler will be made at 8:00 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served.

We hope to accomplish two goals from this event. First, we intend to develop resources to lobby the Federal Government regarding the introduction of any restrictive legislation on abortion. We need the voice of Manitobans to be heard. We have a critical role to play in the upcoming debate.

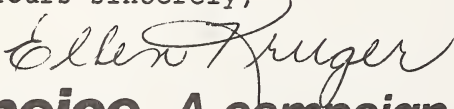
Second, we want to mount a legal challenge to the Provincial Government's decision to refuse to pay for abortions outside of hospitals. We know that abortions in approved medical facilities such as community health clinics are safer and less costly. We believe the government is acting unethically, perhaps unconstitutionally.

Tickets for this Choice Celebration are available at a cost of \$25.00. Larger donations are welcomed. Benefactors, who contribute \$200.00 and over and donors (\$100.00 - \$199.00) will be acknowledged in the evening's program.

Tickets can be purchased at Bold Print, 478-A River Avenue, the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, 16 - 222 Osborne Street, Times Change Restaurant on Main and St. Mary's, or the National Council of Jewish Women at the Gwen Selter Creative Living Centre, 1588 Main Street. Reservations will be accepted by mail at the Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Please join us, to celebrate our past victory, to honour Dr. Morgentaler, and to help ensure that our right to reproductive choice will be retained.

Yours sincerely,



Choice A campaign for reproductive freedom
♀

The Science of Hypnotism: The Wonder of the 20th Century...
All Known Methods Explained. The Way to Become an Expert Operator,
Etc.; Baltimore, MD, I & M. Ottenheimer (August, 1899, Young
249p.

Much of the text was familiar to me because of quotations I
had read from the original authorities, but some quotes are very
useful since the original books are hard to find.

The chapter headings help to find material since no index is
provided. There is a portrait of M. Young, but no explanation of
his connection with this book.

Despite all quotations, many good early books are ignored.

Chester d. Cuthbert
March 2, 2001



CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Young, Phyllis Brett

Undine; Toronto, Longmans Canada Limited (1964); 256p.

Considered as a weird novel, as a mystery story, a modern Gothic suspense story, or as a novel of possession, in any of these categories this book attains near-classic rank. The legend of Undine which underlies the story and gives to it a haunting beauty and terror is modernized in terms acceptable to the modern mind.

In her technical construction of this novel, and in her search for the meaning of the soul in a woman, Mrs. Young carries on the inquiry which was so well commenced in her first novel "Psyche", published in 1959. It is difficult to foresee what form her next novel in this quest may take, but even if she does not succeed in writing one, "Undine" is an adequate accomplishment and will certainly take a high place in fantastic fiction.

This novel is the more remarkable because it does not strive for originality in any of its elements. Its strength and importance, and its ultimate effect, depend entirely upon the care and skill with which it has been written. Of Canadian weird novels, only "The Rector of Maliseet" by Leslie Reid can be compared with it.

Fundamentally the simple story of a second wife adjusting herself to the home and life of her husband against the influence remaining of the departed first wife and her abnormal brother, the actual complexity of the elements which make this novel impressive are disguised by excellent craftsmanship.

Mrs. Young is not alone among women who have succeeded with novels of possession. Cora Jarrett's "Strange Houses" and Pamela Kellino's "Del Palma" are noteworthy for comparative purposes.

This novel belongs in every good fantasy library.

Young, Wayland

The Profumo Affair: Aspects of Conservatism; Penguin Books (#S152), (Young) (1963); Appendix 118p.

This is a well-considered study from a sociological and political point-of-view, and constitutes an indictment of the hypocritical standards of England which forced the authorities to use Stephen Ward as a scapegoat.

Although this is, as the author declares, "a long pamphlet, not a book", it seems to me to be a more penetrating and critical survey of the matter than the book by Irving, et al, although the latter is more detailed. Both are essential to a balanced view, however.

Because of its title, I shall list the books I have read which deal with the affair, or aspects of it:

1. Irving, Clive; Hall, Ron; Wallington, Jeremy: Anatomy of a Scandal: A Study of the Profumo Affair.
2. The Trial of Stephen Ward, by Ludovic Kennedy.
3. Doctor Cobb's Game: A Novel, by R. V. Cassill.

Younger, Jack

Rest in Agony; New York, Siena Publishing Corp. (Car-
lyle #C97039-T), (1979, author) 223p.

I should have realized from the title of this book that it was not worth reading, but I was curious as to whether it might be fantasy. It is, dealing with Tutankhamon's tomb and its discoverers Carter and Lord Carnarvon, the curse to anyone disturbing it, and a lost race headed by an immortal pharaoh 3000 years old and surviving death in a hidden city in the desert many days' journey from Cairo.

The killings are numerous, the curse works, only one survivor of the expedition remains to tell the story, the characters are unappealing, and the story is a series of cliches based on H. Rider Haggard and old issues of Weird Tales or Horror Stories.

Although a waste of time to read, at least I know that the book is classifiable as fantasy.

Zancig, Julius

"Crystal Gazing" "The Unseen World": A Treatise on the Art of Concentration; Baltimore, Maryland, I. & M. Ottenheimer (1926, author) 48p.

The author considered himself the world's greatest mind reader and I have a hazy recollection that he spent some of his last days in Manitoba, though I cannot remember where I read this.

Zancig attributes the faculty of "seeing" visions in crystals to scientific imagination achieved through concentration. He says the crystal becomes cloudy at first, then clears enabling the seer to be clairvoyant. He acknowledges the possibility of precognition, especially of diseases and their progress.

His description of the phenomena is closer to occultism than science, and he makes no reference to science, and he does not refer to either Thomas or Besterman. This book was written before the term ESP was used by Rhine. It led to my reading the books written by the authors mentioned, however.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 5, 2001

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Francis, Julius

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March 5, 2001

Zebrowski, George

Macrolife; New York/Hagerstown/San Francisco/London,
Harper & Row (1979, Zebrowski); Illustrated by Rick Stern-
bach 284p.

The publishers have done an excellent job of packaging this novel—binding, printing, paper, illustrations, and jacket are all attractive.

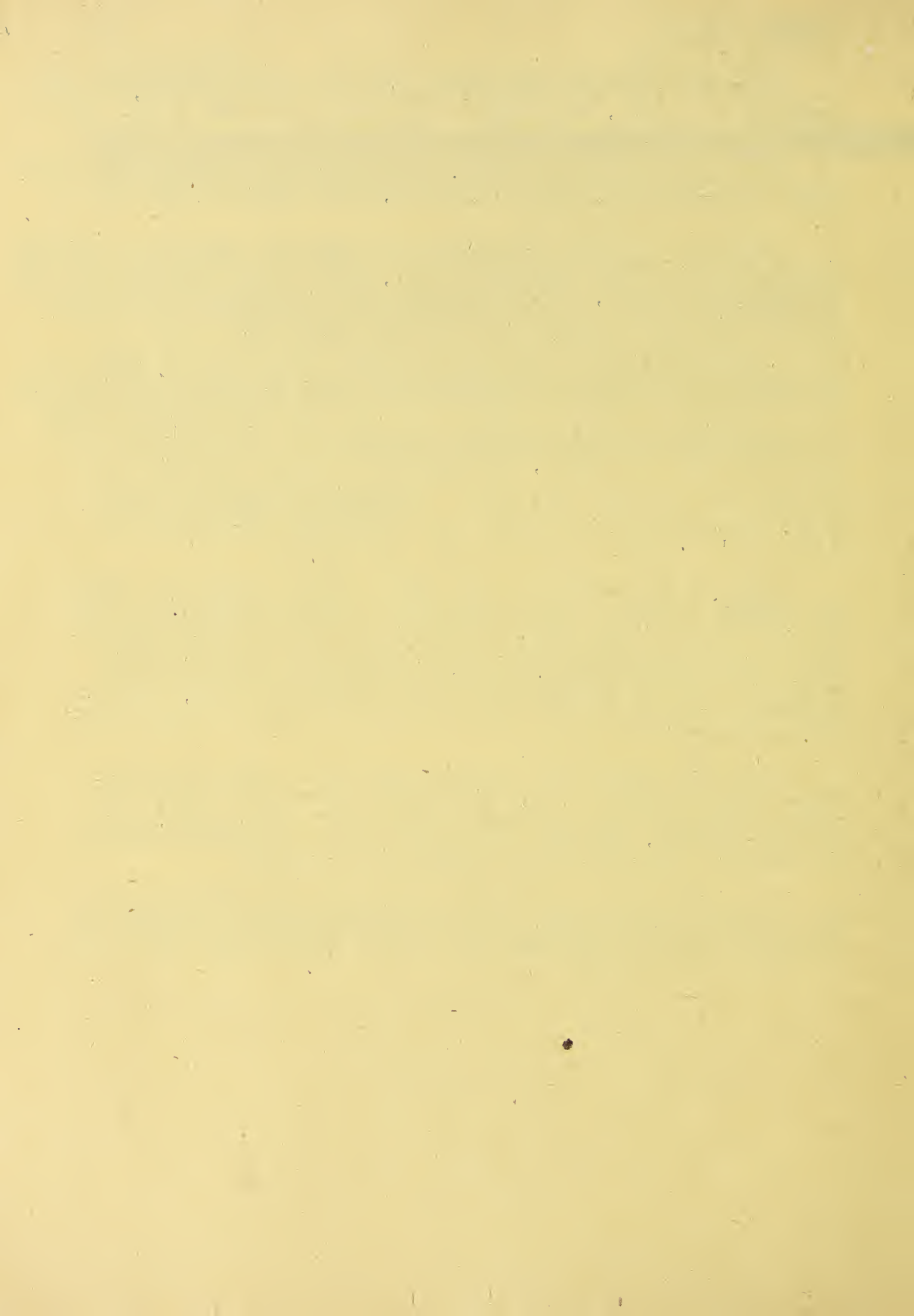
Although the story attempts to outline the history of the Bulero family in Sunspace: 2021, of a cloned descendant, in Macrolife: 3000, and of that macrolife's awareness of the metaphysical and mystical implications of human existence in the concluding section of the book called "The Dream of Time", the story is too slender a thread on which to support the vision of stellar exploration and the comparison of life on "natural" with that of artificially civilized planets.

Zebrowski is compared with Stapledon for the scope of his vision in this novel, but Zebrowski himself explains that he has based his work on speculative non-fiction by various writers on planetary societies. Zebrowski's novel is derivative, consequently, and lacks the exploratory excitement of Stapledon's powerful and original imagination.

Many of the details of the Bulero family story are boring and ~~tedious~~ tedious. Having invented a miracle metal used for construction of buildings, the family shirked its responsibility to continue research and monitoring of the metal, which broke down disastrously and almost eliminated life on earth. Forced to develop an asteroid as an artificial world, its inhabitants powered it for space travel and explored other planets and cultures.

This will never be a popular novel or a commercial success, in my opinion. And, although it will have a place as a representative "future history of mankind" speculation, and is well-written, its main importance is its gathering together of elements which are better presented as essays.

The author put a great deal of thought and effort into the writing of this book. It is unfortunate that it lacks the structure which a craftsman like Arthur Hailey might have used to enhance its appeal.



1104 Mulvey Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada R3M 1J5

March 9th, 1980.

Mr. M. S. Wyeth, Jr.,
Vice President & Editor-in-Chief,
Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.,
10 East 53rd Street,
New York City, N. Y. 10022.

Dear Mr. Wyeth:

I appreciate very much your generosity and courtesy in providing me with a copy of Macrolife by George Zebrowski, and as requested I am sending you a copy of my file notes concerning it. The book deserves an honorable place in my collection, but more as a valiant effort than as a major achievement.

Much of any book's effect on a reader depends on his mood while reading it, and whether it compels his attention to the exclusion of any distractions. I must confess that my attention often wandered, and that it took me perhaps three times as long to read this book as its length might appear to warrant. But the fault may lie with me rather than with the author.

I consider Stapledon's works to have had a major influence on my life and thought; but I found it rather a chore to read some of his books, and, in fact, I still have on hand a few unread because of this difficulty. But his is without question the most powerful intellectual imagination I have ever encountered in literature; and I respect any writer who attempts to emulate him.

Macrolife is far above the evanescent popular science fiction which the general public reads, and if it fails to succeed, the failure may be attributable to its merits and not to its faults.

I thank you again for having given me the opportunity to read the book.

Best wishes,

Chester D. Cuthbert,
Member, SFWA, Inc.



Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.

New York Hagerstown San Francisco London

M. S. Wyeth, Jr.
Vice President & Editor-in-Chief

10 East 53d Street, New York, New York 10022

January 18, 1980

Since last May when Harper & Row published MACROLIFE, we have been enormously pleased by the comments George Zebrowski's novel has received. Our mail confirms our belief that George's book is a truly striking achievement, and we wanted to share the comments as well as our own excitement with you.

"...George's book is so good it doesn't need any recommendation from me."

--Arthur C. Clarke
Award-winning author of
2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY and
THE FOUNTAINS OF PARADISE

"Mr. Zebrowski's book is a work of sweeping imagination, exploring the fascinating implications of humanity's breakout to the era of space colonies. Mr. Zebrowski addresses the deepest of questions: what is the human destiny? I read this book with great enjoyment."

--Gerard O'Neill

"An impressive vision--one of social intelligence transforming the cosmos. It's a book with a fierce conviction."

--Ian Watson
Award-winning author of
MIRACLE VISITORS

"...vistas, perspectives, a kind of distant, serene motion. I think it's a book that will last, if only for its first statement of an emerging, probably inevitable vision. The novel oscillates nicely between long view and close focus, capturing a mood and feeling that few even attempt in this field, and at the conclusion there is a genuine vast perspective evoked. The prose is very good, smooth, evocative, adroit, a solid work that will have a following of the best sort."

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MACROLIFE by George Zebrowski - page two
August 15, 1979

"I read it with great interest and not a little excitement. It's a truly sui generis book...a massive intellectual achievement, a work that will be discussed and debated for years. George Zebrowski is one of the leaders of the new generation of science fiction writers."

--Thomas N. Scortia
Co-author of THE PROMETHEUS
CRISIS and THE TOWERING
INFERNO

"It is a very impressive book, not only because it is so well written but, most especially, because of its imaginative scope. It takes courage, confidence, and real ability to tackle these magnificent Stapledonian expanses of space and time, to confront the Universe in all its ever-changing majesty, and to dream of the infinite variety in which it can challenge man and change him (or make him change himself).

"That, of course, is the challenge of the science fiction field, and at a time when too much sf is trying to reduce the vastness and wonders among which we and our world live to mere backdrops for teenage suspense plots, it is refreshing and encouraging to have someone like George tackle the greater scheme and do it so splendidly. I hope there will be more books where MACROLIFE came from."

--R. Bretnor
Author of THE SCHIMMELHORN
FILE and editor of THE
CRAFT OF SCIENCE FICTION

"Zebrowski has plotted and executed a fascinating story, anchored on a global technological catastrophe that forces survivors of the human race to make Macrolife a reality...a very plausible cosmology."

--UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

"...breathtaking scope...a grand theme..."

--PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Harper & Row, Publishers

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"I am especially moved by Zebrowski's success in striking a balance between the demands of thought and art...a splendidly wrought novel that is also a journey into the furthest reaches of the imagination. Much more than a book about space colonies, it presents a comprehensive vision of human destiny. MACROLIFE is magnificent."


--W. Warren Wagar
Author of H. G. WELLS AND THE
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"Serious and original as well as entertaining, Zebrowski has proven a promising new voice whose work deserves a wider readership."

--Anthony Manousos
TWENTIETH CENTURY SCIENCE
FICTION WRITERS

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Best regards,


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MSW/bj



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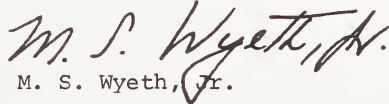
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MSW/bj

Zeno

John Hawsthorne: Themes for Thinkers or Facts in Fiction
A Religious Novel; Leeds, Alfred W. Inman, New Wortley, 1896
244p.

The cover of the books shows the title as "John Hawsthorne. Agnostic".

Herbert Harley narrates the story. He is a minister and answers to the nickname of Zeno. The title character is a superior type of mechanic who has resorted to socialism as an answer to the problems of existence, but his wife Elsie is an adherent of religion and this brings about dissension in their love.

Harley meets Julia Violet Hargroves and falls in love with her, and the two couples become friends. Julia's mother had written a 3-volume novel, and had a photographic memory for recall of reading matter, but has placed her home duties above a career.

Much of the book is a dissertation in favor of religion and a discussion with John over the shortcomings of socialism. John remains unconvinced until he is on the borderline of death and has a vision which convinces him of the reality of the supernatural, whereupon he renounces socialism and turns to the church.

There are many quotations from Samuel Laing's "Modern Science and Modern Thought", from the Bible, and from other books of prose and poetry.

Zeno strikes me as a rather priggish, opinionated, and superficial thinker, and the story he tells is merely a conventional peg on which to hang his views.

Zinberg, Len

Hold with the Hares; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1948; (1948, Author) 31Op.

Although this is the story of an ambitious newspaper columnist and deals mainly with his professional and personal problems, especially with the various women with whom he falls in love; and with the wife whom he detests, it seems to me to portray accurately his type of life.

The last part of the book finds him in Italy with the occupation forces, seducing an Italian girl and promising her marriage; leaving her he returns to the States, becomes involved with a CIO refugee to whom he gives his boat as the only means of escape, and determines to start life anew as owner and publisher of a small independent newspaper published in the town where he went to College.

The description of life in occupied Italy makes me think that Bill Blyth might like to read this book, so I am sending a copy of these notes to him. If he cannot obtain a copy of the book from the Toronto Library, I can send this to him.

Zinberg, Len

Strange Desires

This is an alter^Nate title for What D'ya know for sure.

Zinberg, Len

What d'ya know for sure; New York, Berkley Publishing Corporation (#G225), (March, 1959), (1947, Author) 223p.

Told in the first person by an assistant director of Hollywood movies, this is the story of an actress suffering spells of insanity when the dual personality of herself as a child dependent for love on her father supersedes her tough, defensive adult personality which believes that everyone is trying to capitalize on her beauty and acting ability and is faking friendship.

I was very favorably impressed with the narration, and with the selfless love shown the girl by the narrator, who finally convinced her of his good faith by washing dishes to obtain sufficient money to support them both while he attempted to cure her. This integrated her personalities and enabled them to marry happily after they had made a movie together and she had decided to renounce stardom in favor of being his housewife.

Although this is a good modern novel, I am letting the book go to Brent Richard, who collects the covers by Maguire.

I was pleased to find that I have a copy of the following edition:

New York, Avon Publications, Inc. (#T-93); Third Printing, January, 1955 188p.

(There is a note that the first two printings were under the title: Strange Desires.)

Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1947; A 20th Century-Fox Literary Fellowship Novel 278p.

I was delighted to find that I have the first edition of this novel.

Zola, Emile

A Love Episode; Translated, with a Preface, by Ernest Alfred Vizetelly, and illustrated with 94 wood engravings from drawings by E. Thevenot; London, Hutchinson & Co., 1898 xi plus 386p.

A widow with an 11-year-old daughter falls in love with a young doctor who lives next door to her apartment with his wife and 5-year-old son, after he treats her daughter for an illness. Accepted as a friend of the doctor's family, she discovers that the doctor's wife is carrying on an affair with a young playboy, anonymously advises the doctor to go to the rendezvous, but warns the guilty couple in time for them to make their escape, but succumbs herself to her passion for the doctor a single time.

Her daughter, an invalid, opens a window and is drenched by rain, takes cold, and becomes fatally ill. The girl is so jealous of the doctor, who threatens to take her mother's love, that she hates him and refuses his care, so is treated by an older doctor, and attended by two brothers, one a priest and the other a businessman who loves the widow and later marries her. There is a subsidiary romance between the widow's housemaid and a young soldier, and a plot mover old lady who begs alms at every opportunity.

This simple story is told at inordinate length, but does portray the daily life of ordinary citizens in Passy near the city of Paris. The characters are well-drawn, and I thought the treatment of the story compared with France's The Crime of Sylvester Bonnard. A classic, but I doubt that it would find a publisher in 1982.

Zola, Emile

Savage Paris; Translated from the French by David Hughes and Marie-Jacqueline Mason; London, Bestseller Library, (1958) (1955 Elek Books Limited) 320p.

The blurb on the back cover of this paperback edition is an excellent summary of the book, which is well-written and interesting.

Zola's description of the Paris produce market is vivid and enlightening. His characters are drawn with fidelity and understanding; there is no glossing of faults or romanticizing of the ideal.

Of the French writers I have read, apart from fantastic fiction, I would rate Zola second only to Voltaire.

Zola, Emile

Shame; New York, Ace Books, Inc. (#S-76); Translated by
Lee Marcourt (1952, Publishers) 160p.
(#D-182) (with Zola: Therese Paquin) 160p.

An innocent girl is seduced by a naval doctor, whose contempt for women does not prevent his enjoying their charms. For a year they co-habit; then he is posted away. She marries a young nobleman but finds herself obsessed by physical longing for her more robust first lover.

Years later, they have a daughter who resembles the lover. The husband gradually learns that his wife cannot give him the passionate adoration which she feels for her former lover; though she has admitted the adventure, she has not revealed the identity of her lover. One day the husband delights to report that a schoolmate and protector of his has survived the reported drowning at sea, and will visit at their chateau. The wife, dismayed, tries to avoid a meeting but ultimately succumbs to her physical desires and has a further liaison with her lover, now coarse and debauched.

An old servant of the husband who is convinced that she represents the vengeance of God and accuses the wife of her shameful past, drives them to recriminations and finally to a suicide pact.

That the ghost of her living lover obsesses the wife is almost a fantasy concept, but this is more an abnormal study of the power over a woman by her first lover.

Zola, Emile

Therese Raquin; New York, Ace Books, Inc. (#D-182);
Translated by Lee Marcourt (1956) (A.A.Wyn, Inc.) 158p.
(With Shame by Zola.)

Therese marries the son of the woman who has brought her up from childhood, but falls in love physically with a huge man. They cannot feel free to enjoy their liason until the husband is dead, so the lover takes them out in a boat and throws him overboard where he drowns.

The woman whose shop they occupy has a small circle of friends who meet once a week for cards and sociability; by cautious manoeuvring they get one of these to suggest that the lover and the widow marry. Once married, they find that they cannot freely love one another because the ghost of the dead man obsesses them both and prevents them from expressing love. They live in constant fear of exposure, or betrayal by each other, take to debauchery in their efforts to shake off their obsession with the dead man, and finally openly accuse each other of having been to blame for the murder, in front of the mother, who is paralysed and cannot expose them.

Like Shame this is an almost fantastic tale of obsession and a morbid study of guilt. Both books are somewhat contrived and the characters do not always act in accordance with their true natures.

Both books are well translated, but I wonder if they are abridged.

The Golden Promise: A Novel of the Coming Era; New York, Pageant Press, Inc. (1955, Zuber) 127p.

In a future North American state called Canarica, under world government, economic problems have been solved, but the continuing problem of a universal language requires a convention of philologists to be held at Oremont City.

The story involves a school teacher Iris Garland, who is re-named Atlantis Lemuria; the mayor Lovejoy Unison, to whom she is betrothed; a schoolboy Ray Dexter, an old man Juniper; Beau Sonore, world traveler and singer, Editor Toiler, actress Millie, and stenographer Kathy. Kathy is eventually triumphant in capturing Beau; but apart from a few speeches by various characters, there appears to be but little reason for their existence, apart from supplying a fictional aspect to this outline of a Utopian future.

Travel between countries is encouraged; everyone has a right to share all the conveniences of living by production of his identity card; women have achieved equality with men and their children bear their names, instead of the father's since it is the woman's right to decide maternity.

No aspect of this story is fully developed; the author has no literary ability; but some of the ideas presented are worth consideration.

Zweig, Stefan

Mental Healers: Franz Anton Mesmer/Mary Baker Eddy/Sigmund Freud; New York, Frederick Ungar Publishing Co. (1932, Viking Press; 1962 reprint 363p.

For anyone interested in the history of mental healing, the importance of these three pioneers is emphasised by Zweig. He is a strong advocate of all three; Mesmer for discovering suggestion Eddy for making the mind all-important in healing, and Freud for eliminating the hypocrisy of silence about sex in medical practice.

Himself the acknowledged victim of sexual ignorance, he is grateful particularly to Freud, but he appreciates the spirit and accomplishments of the other two despite their errors of belief.

Unfortunately, this volume is not indexed, but is worth re-reading for its balanced approach to understanding these three people.

Chester D. Cuthbert
May 9, 2000

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Zugsmith, Albert

The Beat Generation; Based on a Screenplay by Richard Matheson and Lewis Meltzer; Bantam Books #A1965 (1959, Author) 151p.

Although much of the background involves the hippie community and its practices, this is actually the story of a police officer and his wife whose lives are shattered by a psychopathic rapist when the officer gets involved in investigating a rape and the rapist vengefully rapes the cop's wife, making uncertain the paternity of the child she finds herself pregnant with.

Quite well written and plotted, this is still a sordid and depressing novel because of its theme. It confirms my impression of the hippies as pseudo-intellectuals who have failed to adjust to life, but is not an adequate portrayal, and does not justify the title.

Zugsmith, Albert, and Hill, Robert

The Private Lives of Adam and Eve; Bantam Books (#A2055)
(January, 1960, Zugsmith) 153p.

This is a novel paralleling the marital difficulties of a modern young couple with the legends about Adam, Eve, Satan, and Lilith. I suspect that the legendary section was written by Robert Hill, and the modern by Zugsmith, but it may all be written by Zugsmith in view of the copyright notice.

The young couple, operating a diner and garage, are happy until a gangster and his wife give them attention, when the wives get ideas about changing mates, the garageman's wife wanting the luxuries of the gangster's.

In the legendary section, the ingredients are the same as in the several other versions I have read, and are sufficient to place this book in the fantasy classification.

Since the legendary section is already familiar to me, I found the modern section the more interesting, since it places the characters in a tense situation on a bus in the midst of a storm.

The legendary section is humorous; the modern serious.

